

Stockdale Road Primary School HOMEWORK POLICY

Responsibility: School Council

Reviewed: October 2012

Background:

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing and opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Homework should be:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- interesting, challenging and when appropriate open ended
- assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided
- balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.

Type	Description
Practice exercises	<p>Provide opportunities for students to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• reading for pleasure• practising spelling words• practising physical education skills• writing essays and other creative tasks• practising and playing musical instruments• completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics
Preparatory homework	<p>Provides opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• collecting newspaper articles• researching topics for class work• reading background material for History• reading English texts for class discussion

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> revising information about a current topic.
Extension assignments	<p>Encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> writing a book review researching local news finding material on the Internet making or designing an art work monitoring advertising in a newspaper completing Science investigation exercises

Successful practice is seen as:

Prep to Year 2

Homework should not be seen as a chore. Homework will:

- Enable the extension of class work by practising skills or gathering extra information or materials
- Mainly consist of daily reading to, with and by parents/carers or older siblings

This will generally not exceed 30 minutes a day and not be set on weekends or during school holidays.

Year 3 to Year 6

- Homework should include daily independent and/or assisted reading
- Homework may extend class work, projects and assignments and research

This will generally range from 15 – 45 minutes a day.

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is:

- to provide information regarding what is considered a reasonable amount of homework
- to communicate the expectations of parents/carers, teachers and students

Responsibility of Parents and Carers:

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

- encouraging a regular daily session to examine and complete homework
- discussing key questions or suggesting resources to help with homework
- helping to balance the time spent between homework and recreational activities

- asking how homework and class work is progressing, and acknowledging success
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- talking to teachers about any homework problems
- checking if homework has been set
- ensuring upper primary and secondary students keep a homework diary
- reading texts set by teachers
- discussing their child's responses to set texts and asking to see their completed work
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language.

Responsibility of School Council:

- to develop and publish a homework policy consistent with the Homework Guidelines developed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Responsibility of Teachers:

- advise parents of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with a copy of the homework policy
- follow up with parents if a student regularly fails to complete homework
- encourage the school to work with parents/guardians to establish good homework patterns from early primary school
- ensure that upper primary school students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

Teachers can help their students by:

- setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- helping students establish a home study routine
- giving students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assessing homework and providing timely and practical feedback and support
- making effective use of homework diaries for upper primary and secondary students
- coordinating the allocation of homework by different teachers in secondary schools
- helping students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensuring that students have good information skills
- ensuring parents and carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- developing strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework.

This policy is to be reviewed in 3 years time to be endorsed by School Council.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in

November 2012